



The President's Daily Brief

17 September 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In East Pakistan, the political climate has not been improved by the measures Yahya has taken to date, and general disruption remains severe. (Page 1)

On Page 3, we comment on Egyptian President Sadat's latest speech.

[redacted] Israel [redacted]
[redacted] French [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 4)

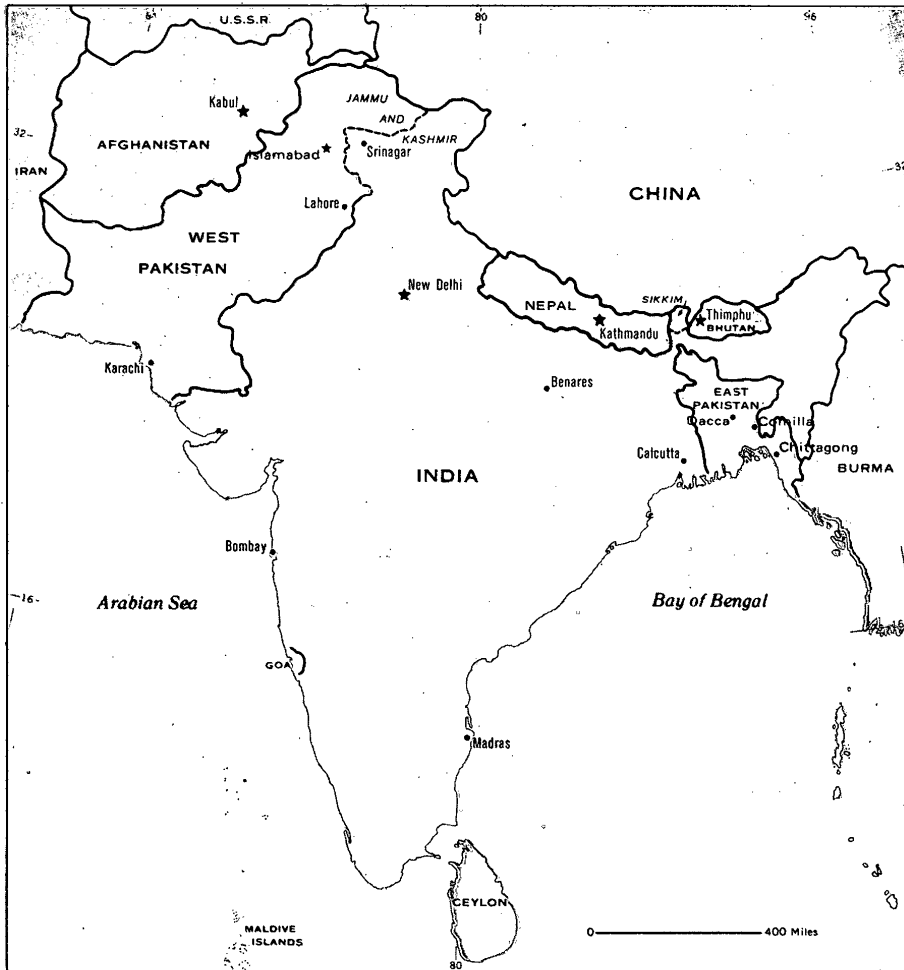
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South Vietnam's militant Buddhists are now calling for a boycott of the presidential election. (Page 5)

[redacted] Chinese [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 6)

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Peking is employing high-ranking trade missions to try to strengthen economic and political ties abroad. (Page 7)



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PAKISTAN

Actions taken by President Yahya earlier this month to improve the political situation in East Pakistan have had little effect to date.

Despite the amnesty announced early this month for all but a few hundred insurgent leaders, several prominent East Pakistanis presumably covered by the amnesty are still in jail and, according to our consulate in Dacca, the popular view is that Yahya's announcement was an empty gesture.

The new civilian governor in the East, A. M. Malik, has been seeking to convince his fellow Bengalis to work for reconciliation and reconstruction. His promises of protection for refugees, Hindus, workers, and students have not so far elicited any favorable public response. [redacted] friction between the governor and local military leaders is inevitable;

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Guerrilla attacks on transportation and power facilities in East Pakistan continue. Travel between Dacca and Comilla has been repeatedly interrupted. Damage to the main power line furnishing electricity for the major port of Chittagong has left industry there at a standstill for the past week. The restriction of army movement caused by flooding has enabled insurgents to operate openly in some parts of the province, and the Bangla Desh flag flies over some towns. In Dacca, however, security forces appear to have broken up the local insurgent organization, at least temporarily.

Food distribution problems continue to plague East Pakistan. A study conducted by US officials in Dacca indicates that available foodgrains will be just adequate to avert mass starvation, but individual consumption will have to be kept at an extremely low level. Much depends on the functioning of the internal transport system which must move food from ports and from surplus to deficit areas. To date, transport disruptions have continuously hampered foodgrain movements within the province.

(continued)

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An upsurge in guerrilla activity, which appears likely as additional guerrillas complete their training in India, could further jeopardize food distribution efforts. The flood waters now moving down the Ganges River through India may also hinder transport activity and could threaten the rice crop.

Meanwhile, West Pakistan, with reduced food stocks, is approaching the critical December through April period when food shortages may occur. According to a West Pakistani official, output in Punjab--which normally produces 75 percent of the West wing's wheat--is down 20 percent from last year, and the Punjab government has refused to supply wheat to other provinces.

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EGYPT - MIDDLE EAST - UN

President Sadat in his nationwide address last night threatened to put the Arab-Israeli problem back into the hands of the UN. He said he would call for a Security Council session at the foreign minister level "at some stage" so that everyone, including the US, could "define his attitude" and so that the international community could "shoulder its responsibility" toward the Middle East dispute. Deploring US failure to define its own position on a settlement, Sadat several times accused the US of "deception" and misrepresentation of the positions of both Israel and Egypt and of Egypt's terms for a settlement. He also complained that, although Egypt had agreed to a period of quiet diplomacy, it had had "no contact whatsoever" with the US since 6 July and that "there is a limit to everything."

Sadat's speech also dwelt at length on the political, economic, and social reforms he had put in motion at home, asserting that these were not diversions or ends in themselves, but a necessary foundation for "the battle." He repeated his claim that 1971 would be a decisive year, "whether through peace or fighting," but he made it clear that building the domestic foundation will be a "long road."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas-Home told Ambassador Rockwell in Rabat yesterday that it was his impression from his just-concluded talks with Sadat and other Egyptian leaders that they want and need a settlement. He felt that they were anxious for more substantive contacts with the US, but that they feared the US had given up on Egypt and was resigned to accepting the Israeli position.

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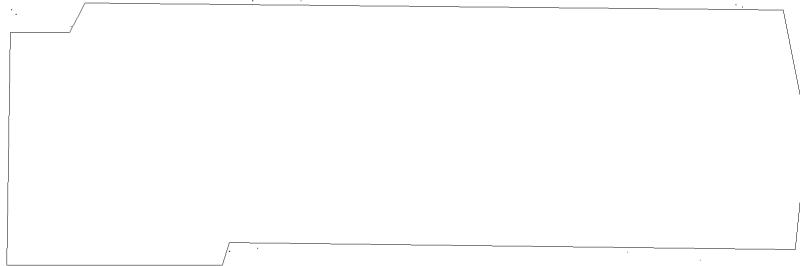
The outlook regarding Security Council consideration of Jerusalem may be further clouded by Sadat's latest attitude. Jordan's failure to present the draft resolution it had worked out with the US at yesterday's Council session on Jerusalem stemmed from the resolution's unacceptability to a majority of the Arab delegations.

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Arabs still favor seeking some resolution that can win majority approval in the Council now that the subject has been raised. Intra-Arab agreement on a text, however, apparently may take until as long as the end of next week to reach.

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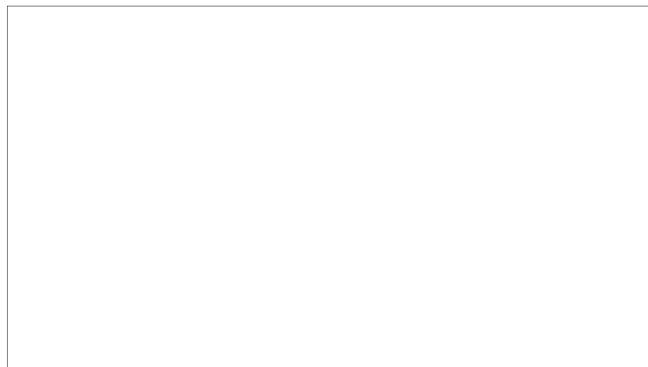
ISRAEL-FRANCE



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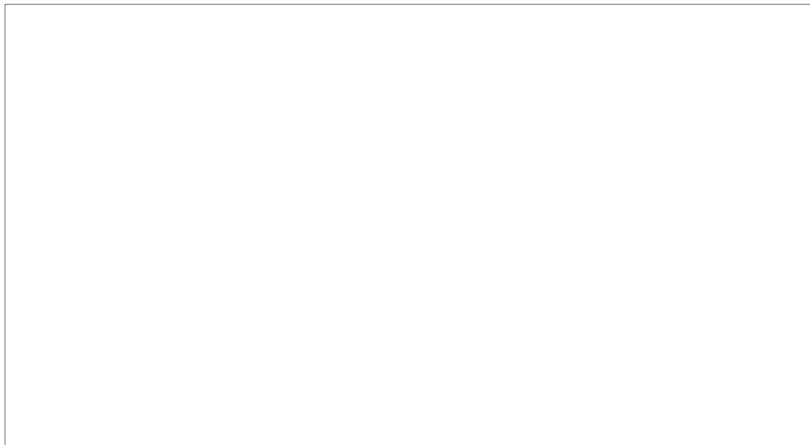
SOUTH VIETNAM

The An Quang Buddhists issued a statement yesterday calling on their followers to boycott the presidential election. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] some of the more radical Buddhist leaders are said to be consulting with other opposition groups, including Ky's camp, in an effort to enlist support for an active antigovernment campaign.

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Earlier information, reported in The President's Daily Brief of 13 September, had indicated that the An Quang leadership was against doing anything that would increase political turmoil and was not planning to oppose Thieu. The call for a boycott suggests that the leadership may have been under pressure from some of the more radical An Quang elements to take a stand. An Quang leaders are still likely to shy away from open agitation against the government, but their boycott could result in a substantial reduction in the number of voters.



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COMMUNIST CHINA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**COMMUNIST CHINA**

Several high-ranking Chinese trade delegates are now abroad, or going shortly, seeking to strengthen economic and political ties. The minister of foreign trade is to head a delegation to France, Italy, and Algeria next month; the trips to Paris and Rome are to reciprocate for similar visits to Peking during the past year and to assess interest in increased trade, while the stop in Algiers will concern, at least in part, disposition of a recently concluded Chinese loan. China's deputy foreign trade minister, who recently completed a visit to Guyana, is currently on a tour of Scandinavian countries, planning to meet with industrial representatives. China's minister of light industry has been visiting Yugoslavia over the past week in conjunction with Peking's participation in a Yugoslav trade fair for the first time in over ten years. Later this month, Chinese textile experts are expected to visit Italy, France, and Switzerland.

With these trade initiatives, the Chinese will exploit foreign hopes to develop an expanding China market and will be working to build support from these countries for Peking's international political position. Wider trade contacts with developed European states could bring greater opportunities for the Chinese to obtain much needed equipment of an advanced scientific and technical nature.

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